FBIS DAILY REPORT

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GRINSPUN PRESENTS PLAN FOR DEBT RESCHEDULING

PY160135 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2309 GMT 15 Jan 85

[Text] Buenos Aires, 15 Jan (TELAM) -- Economy Minister Bernardo Grinspun formally requested today that Argentina's overdue obligations be rescheduled over a 15-year period, including a 5-year grace period and a 10-year amortization period. The minister asked that the obligations be repaid in increasingly larger installments in keeping with anticipated international inflation and with the progressive recovery of the Argentine economy.

Grinspun spoke today at the inaugural session of the Paris Club in France, where our country is trying to reschedule part of the $6-billion debt it owes to the official banks that belong to the club. Grinspun read his 26-page speech in a little more than 30 minutes. Copies of the speech were released by the Economy Ministry today.

In his speech, Grinspun admitted that the requested grace and amortization periods are longer than the usual periods granted for rescheduling government debts. He addressed Paris Club President Philippe Jurgensen, telling him that it is essential that our official creditors help us as much as possible, because this will permit us to meet our external accounts.

ARMY COMMUNIQUE ON ITS ECONOMIC SITUATION

PY152138 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2315 GMT 14 Jan 85

[Text] Buenos Aires, 14 Jan (NA) -- The Army General Staff has issued the following communique on the service's economic situation:

The Army General Staff reports the following in connection with the recent press reports on the economic situation of the service:

1. During 1984 all the necessary adjustments were made to reconcile the budget with the reduction in the amount of funds allotted to the service, a reduction of 50 percent in comparison to the amount allotted in 1983.
2. The Army did not purchase any materiel or incur any expenses other than those strictly necessary for its functioning, except for some disbursements contemplated in the investment plan to maintain specific high technology equipment.
3. The reduction in the allotment to the Army caused a number of problems for the service, which were aggravated by the delay in the allotment.
4. The above-mentioned delay caused in turn a considerable delay in payment to suppliers, a circumstance for which the Army General Staff was not responsible because it was not a direct participant in the successive negotiations held with suppliers to resolve the situation.
5. The discharge of Army personnel was one of the measures that the Army General Staff adopted to confront the situation. However, it must be noted that this decision was not entrusted to the commanders of Army commands and units, as has been reported.

CELS SUBMITS NAMELIST TO INTERIOR MINISTRY

PY141625 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1336 GMT 14 Jan 85

[Text] Buenos Aires, 14 Jan (NA) -- The Center for Legal and Social Studies (CELS) today submitted to the Interior Ministry a list of clergymen, military men, and former members of the judiciary and requested "as a precautionary measure" that steps be taken to prevent their leaving the country. It is stated that the persons listed are charged with having violated human rights. The list includes Army Vicar Msgr Miguel Medina, Msgr Emilio Grasselli, Father Christian von Wernich, Lieutenant Alfredo Astiz, and former Commander Emilio Massera, among others.

INTERIOR MINISTER ANNOUNCES COUP PLOT

PY161240 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Text] Reports published by several dailies today state that a coup attempt organized by former military officers was expected for today.

Yesterday, Interior Minister Federico Alvarez Plata announced that a group of former officers were preparing a coup attempt that was going to be staged in Cochabamba and Santa Cruz. The minister added that despite the faith that the government has in its Armed Forces' democratic and institutional position, there are individuals who have been removed and who are opposed to the democratic process.

The interior minister disclosed that instructions have been given to the Cochabamba and Santa Cruz prefects to summon various persons that are apparently involved in subversive activities in order to inform them that the government is aware of their activities.

Minister Alvarez Plata refused to identify the persons responsible for this coup attempt to which he referred and which was expected for today.

The interior minister ended by stating that more information on the development of events, and especially regarding the mentioned coup attempt in Santa Cruz and Cochabamba, will be disclosed in the next few hours.

MINISTERS APPOINTMENTS CAUSE 'UNREST' IN MNRI

PY151636 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 15 Jan 85

[Text] The designation of the new ministers has caused deep unrest among the rank and file of the Nationalist Revolutionary Movement of the Left [MNRI], the ruling party.

It was stated that the MNRI leaders have acted stealthily in designating and installing ministers. The spokesmen insisted that all this is the doing of the so-called palace group which is leading the country into a severe crisis situation that has had adverse effects on workers. The spokesmen concluded by stating that in spite of everything a special party convention will be held in order to separate, once and for all, the palace group which quote are leading the country into disaster unquote.

LA PAZ POLICE DEMAND PAY HIKE; REMAIN IN BARRACKS

PY160243 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Excerpts] The La Paz police garrison will remain in its barracks as of 0000 16 January. Noncommissioned officers, corporals, and guards demanded that the police commmander grant a salary readjustment for more equal and fair wages to eliminate their great financial difficulties. The police insist that their action is strictly a police matter. In no way are they demanding that the police commander resign; on the contrary, it is requested that he hear their case. The police say that by adopting this measure they are not acting against the government, but they simply demand that their request, which they say is fair and not postponable, be considered.

If the Interior Ministry authorities and the Bolivian police command do not reply to the police request, those guards assigned to fixed places will be recalled to the barracks. This means that the police guarding banks, embassies, the National Panoptic Building, and other places will be withdrawn.

We were told earlier, that this police movement will be observed nationwide. It is expected that in the next few hours the police garrisons of the interior will report their position.

The police who decided to remain in their barracks have told Panamericana that police garrison No 2 has been chosen as a negotiating center. Consequently, if police or Interior Ministry authorities wish to talk or negotiate with the police, they will have to go to police garrison No 2. We were told that the media will be able to obtain official reports about developments in this conflict at the same garrison.

The police also told Panamericana that if the authorities take reprisals like in the past, the measure of strict self-confinement to barracks will not be lifted.

OUTGOING, NEW FOREIGN MINISTERS ON BOGOTA TALKS

Fernandez Saavedra Remarks

PY120226 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 Jan 85

[Excerpt] When he handed his office over to his successor, Edgar Camacho, former Foreign Minister Gustavo Fernandez Saavedra stated that Bolivia must tackle the negotiations that are to start with Chile in Bogota in February with calmness and firmness.

During a ceremony in the Hall of the Foreign Ministry, Fernandez Saavedra presented a report that stresses the search for a solution to the sea outlet issue. Fernandez Saavedra emphasized that a formula granting Bolivia a sea outlet and a sovereign port on the Pacific Ocean must be sought in keeping with a resolution issued by the OAS.

Edgar Camacho Comments

PY141911 La Paz Radio Illimani in Spanish 1700 GMT 14 Jan 85

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Edgar Camacho Omistes this morning stated that Bolivia adheres to its position of holding a meeting with Chile next month in Bogota in order to initiate the contacts that have been suggested by the OAS. He added that the talks are aimed at resuming diplomatic relations between the two countries and discussing their problems.

The meeting, which was proposed by the OAS, will be held in Bogota, Colombia, on 5-7 February on the basis of a process structured and approved at the latest OAS assembly.

Minister Camacho ratified his government's intention to attend that meeting, despite Chilean newspaper reports casting doubts about whether the talks will be held. These reports claims that the Bolivian position recently expressed by former Foreign Minister Gustavo Fernandez Saavedra have led some to believe that the meeting might not be held.

TANCREDO NEVES WINS PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

PY151612 [Editorial Report] Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese at 1529 GMT on 16 January during coverage of the Electoral College session in the National Congress in Brasilia reports that Tancredo Neves received 480 of the total of 686 votes cast during the session and Paulo Maluf received 180 votes; there were 20 abstentions and 6 Electoral College members were absent and did not send proxy votes.

At 1524 GMT, Senator Moacyr Dalla ends the voting session by pointing out that "we gave just closed a new chapter in Brazilian political life." He then states that it is not the time to evaluate the chapter we have just closed since one full of hope lies ahead of us. After voicing his hope that the new president we have just elected will guide the country toward harmonious coexistence, Dalla proclaims "His Excellency Tancredo de Almeida Neves the new president of the Federative Republic of Brazil for the term to start on 15 March 1985 [lengthy applause] and in compliance with [word indistinct] Article No 77 of the Federal Constitution, I proclaim His Excellency Senator Jose Sarney the vice president of the Federative Republic of Brazil for the term to start on 15 March 1985. [lengthy applause] My deepest thanks to everyone who helped us carry out this difficult task. Thank you very much. I hereby end this session." The session concluded at 1529 GMT.

Delivers Victory Speech

PY152108 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 1621 GMT 15 Jan 85

[Victory speech by President-elect Tancredo Neves at the National Congress in Brasilia upon the conclusion of the Electoral College voting -- live]

[Text] [Broadcast in progress] ...Ulysses Guimaraes, Vice President Aureliano Cheves, Liberal Front Senator Marcos Maciel, Workers Party [PT] representative Rubem Andrade, Brazilian Labor Party [PTB] Deputy Ricardo Ribeiro, the illustrious PTB president, illustrious members of the Social Democratic Party [PDS] dissident faction, congressmen, ladies and gentlemen:

At this historic movement, we are proud to be part of a nation which does not bow down, knows how to overcome fear, and does not accept hatred. After many lost hopes and trying hardships, the entire nation, completely hopeful, rediscovers the good and time-tested road to democracy. [applause]

There is no fatherland where democracy is lacking. A fatherland is not merely an organization of statesmen, but sentiment and awareness. Each one of them represents the nation's spirit, the sentiment and awareness of the statesmen's nontransferable responsibility for the fatherland's fate and unity. The choice of a nationality, freely and consciously made, no longer depends on the circumstances of birth to establish that lasting bond between an individual and the community. We will not have the type of fatherland that God meant for us unless we are capable of turning each and every Brazilian into a citizen fully aware of his dignity. We are witness to the fact that the fatherland does not belong to the past, rather it is the future that we are presently building. The fatherland does not mean the retirement of heroes but a task that remains to be accomplished.

Fatherland means to promote justice, and justice is fostered by freedom. In the nations' life, every day makes history and all days are difficult.

Peace is always elusive, it is an asset achieved by political reason. In order to maintain its everlasting precariousness, man has created state institutions which are never consciously perfected. This basic quality of man never gets discouraged no matter how severe the totalitarian shadows may be, no matter how wild the anarchic passions may be; the instinct for freedom and the call for help at times of injustice are at work to restore the social balance. In our concept, the democratic state is a healthy contradiction. The more democratic a society is the weaker the state will be, and the strength of society is realized by compliance with the law. The more fraternal the society, the more the state's presence will be noticed to fade into the background.

Brazilians, the first task of my government will be to promote the state's institutional organization. But if in order to achieve this goal we must resort to the experience history has given us, we must also understand that we are going to create a modern state, capable of administering our nation in the dynamic future that lies ahead of us. Without neglecting our daily duties and concerns, we must focus our efforts on reaching a basic consensus for a new constitutional charter.

I invite you to the great constitutional debate to be carried out in the coming months, discussing in all auditoriums, in the press and on the streets, within the political parties and in the congressional halls, in the universities and labor unions, the great problems of the nation and the legitimate interests of each social group. [applause] In these broad discussions, you must identify our delegates to the constituent assembly and invest with them the mandate to write the new constitution of the country.

The constitution is not a question that must be restricted to legal experts, sages, and politicians. It cannot be the work of a few elitist groups, but the responsibility of all the people. [applause] We are concerned that it does not result from a hasty effort, but from profound national reflection. The constituent delegates, vested with the mandate of the popular sovereignty, will know how to write a constitution suited to the historical circumstances. Being clear and imperative in its principles, the constitution will have to be flexible so that occasional political crises can be dealt with in accordance with the laws.

As Brazil's president-elect, I seek in my heart and my mind words of deep gratitude for the colleagues of the Democratic Alliance, the valiant and loyal Brazilian Democratic Alliance Party [applause] under the leadership of Deputy Ulysses Guimaraes [applause, shouts of "Ulysses"], the recently founded Liberal Front Party led by Aureliano Chaves and Marco Maciel [applause], and my running mate Vice President Jose Sarney [applause], the members of the Democratic Labor Party and the Brazilian Labor Party, the dissidents of the Social Democratic Party [applause], and all those who for partisan or personal reasons are putting in my hands the highest and most difficult responsibility in my public life.

I do not believe that I can discharge that responsibility in any better way than by promising before God and the nation, at the start of this joint effort, to fulfill two aspirations to which the people have obstinately and painfully held for the last 20 years: This is the last indirect election in the country. [applause] I have come to carry out urgent and enterprising political, social, and economic changes indispensable for the people's well-being. [applause]

It has not been easy to arrive here, not even after our victory was anticipated in recent months. This anticipation did not heal the wounds nor did it lighten the sacrifices that marked the history of the struggle that now comes to an end.

We must not deny that there were moments of dismay and weariness, when each of us asked ourselves whether it was worth it to continue the struggle. But every time that such doubts seized us, the moving sight of the people, resisting and hoping, recreated in us energies we thought had been exhausted, and so we started the next day as though nothing had been lost. [applause]

Our history has been enlightened throughout the centuries by the martyrdom of the Inconfidentes Mineiros [reference to the 1789 Tiradentes-led plotters in Minas Gerais] who proved that the nation fully supported any insurrection designed to exact freedom from the empire. The courage of the Brazilian people, who rose up in arms to defend their principles and to fight the evils of the First Republic, also elicited admiration.

The unforgettable sight of multitudinous throngs of people who in peaceful rallies and hopeful participation took to the streets to demand that a popular vote system be reestablished for direct election of the president of the Republic will also go down in our history. [applause]

Though frustrated by the immediate results of that memorable campaign, the people neither despaired nor folded their arms. They summoned us to appear before the Electoral College and turn it into an instrument to serve the people's permanent goals, so that we could create with unyielding will a government to restore full democracy. [applause]

I cannot say which of these two major civic movements has inspired more greatness, either the people's determination to break the barriers of repression and take to the streets to shout for direct elections, or, after being defeated in their attempt, their decision not to surrender and to demand with sound political maturity that we act within the rules of the game precisely to abolish and destroy such rules. [applause]

It is unquestionable that the transition process has received contributions that we cannot fail to mention:

That of the legislative branch which, despite having its powers curtailed and its composition altered on several occasions, kept the votive flame of the people's representation alive as it was the last stronghold in the battle for democracy;

That of the judicial branch, which has refused to passively accept either doctrine, ideas, or principles, and which has promoted the spirit of restoration of democracy;

That of the church, which endowed with a [word indistinct] spiritual authority [applause], has undertaken its social and educational task, has defended the persecuted, and has preached the need to give preferential (?treatment) to the poor in order to build the foundation of modern democracy;

That of the men and women of our people, primarily mothers, who have endured the hardships of unemployment and shortages in their homes, courageously struggling for amnesty, human rights, and political freedom; [applause]

That of the press, newspapers and radio and television stations, which, though restricted by the police censorship and by political and economic coercion, has courageously challenged the power structure to serve the people's freedom; [applause]

That of society as a whole; that of our courageous governors elected by the people in direct electoral contests;

That of many institutions, like the Brazilian Bar Association, the Brazilian Press Association [applause], the associations of employers and employees, the professional organizations, the student organizations, the universities, and so many others who many times participated under strong pressure in this common civic task of national reconstruction;

That of the Armed Forces, which have decided to stay out of the political process by showing respect for the alternatives of power; [applause]

That of His Excellency President Joao Baptista de Figueiredo, who continuing the undertaking that he started with the repeal of institutional acts, and through the declaration of a political amnesty, the enforcement of freedom of the press, and the holding of direct elections in 1982, assured the normal development of the presidential succession. [applause]

My gratitude to that immense and unforgettable popular mobilization, since thanks to it we are now at the threshold of the new Republic.

I am here in the name of national reconciliation. We cannot, at the end of this century, at the end of this millennium, at a time in which man is increasing his power and therefore his ambitions and anguish, remain divided within our own borders.

If we do not see other nations as our enemies, and we do not, we must be aware that the world is reduced to international competitiveness. The struggle for the economic market, control of resources, and political hegemony is becoming more acute.

Those ideologies that were so strongly established in the past century have faded in the middle of the 20th century to give way to a new nationalism.

Moreover, the phenomenon of industrial development and the expansion of capitalism have given birth to multinational companies which seem not to have a fatherland but which mainly act in keeping with their interests. [applause]

Fellow Brazilians, we must take care of the economic situation. Inflation is the most apparent sign of disorder in the economy of the nation, and we must face it from the first day, without falling into the error of resorting to recession as a deflationary tool. [applause, cheers] On the contrary, we shall promote economic growth by promoting economic risks and by gradually eradicating the hypertrophy of selfishness and profitmaking. But the pace of our economic growth program will solely depend on the cooperation granted to us by the pertinent sectors. We count on the patriotism of all Brazilians to achieve this goal.

The entire economic policy of my administration will aim to achieve economic growth and to create new jobs. As long as there is a single man without a job, without a roof over his head, without food, and with no education, our country's prosperity will be false. [applause, cheers]

It must be noted that social development cannot be considered a mere consequence of economic development. The nation is basically constituted of the people. Therefore, the life of a human being is much more precious than the increase of an index on a statistical chart. [applause]

To preserve the human being [applause], to preserve the human being is a duty that transcends the economic problem and is as important as defending our borders.

Within these conditions, we have to recognqize and admit that safeguarding food, health, housing, education, and transporation for all Brazilians is a basic national objective. [applause]

The well-being we want for Brazilian society should be based on free enterprise and private property. This is the precise reason for which we will adopt measures that will allow more democratic access to property and to protect small enterprises. [applause]

The defense of the free enterprise system must not be confused, as many do, with the protection of privileges of economic and financial forces. [applause] To defend free enterprise and private property means to defend them from monopolies and latifundia. [applause]

Brazilians, national understanding does not preclude confrontation of ideas, the defense of opposing political doctrines, and plurality of opinion. We do not seek an understanding that will represent surrender, nor a halfway agreement between political antagonists which would result in immobility and apathy. National understanding should be based on stronger reasons such as preserving national integrity and sovereignty.

Within these principles, a conciliatory effort designed to promote understanding should be regarded as an agreement meant to lead the transition to a new and lasting institutional system for Brazil.

A few weeks ago I announced in Vitoria the construction of the new Republic. I foresee in this stage of national life a great historical opportunity for our people.

The crisis we have gone through since our independence may be attributed to the normal difficulties encountered in the process of building a nation. Today, however, I find that the hardest stages have been overcome. We maintained the nation's political integrity intact, thanks to the ability of the Second Republic, which was tolerant at the right moment, thus preventing defeated liberal insurrections from leaving historical scars.

With the occupation of the western Amazon region, which ended in the last few decades, we arrived at the conclusion of the task initiated by the Bandeirantes. This task was carried out by bold pioneers and settlers and by Rio Branco's political genius as well as the nationalist courage of Marshal Rondon.

We ceased being a peculiar tropical nation in the eyes of foreigners a long time ago. We are now included among the most developed countries. Our culture is admired worldwide. Brazilian writers have been translated into all languages. Brazilian music is well known and the performances of Brazilian theater, movie, and television actors are appreciated by the audiences of countless countries. We have obtained exceptional results in the field of scientific research despite our scarce public funds. The findings of our scientists are admired by the principal scientific centers of the world.

Brazilians, you must know that public men are not made of any special nature, but they are subject to human frailties. When people choose a head of state, they are not choosing the most learned of their fellow countrymen. It is possible that the most virtous of your fellow countrymen is not chosen, since his qualities, subjectively attributed, cannot be measured.

When a nation chooses its president by voting, the nation is confident that he will know how to lead the country in the search for common well-being. Aware of this reality, I invite you to join in a great, joint national effort for our common good, and no one can be excused from this call.

The role of citizens is not to be passive but to carry out a permanent action in favor of the community. I appeal to public servants; politics, the way we understand it, is the most noble and rewarding of human activities. To serve the people demands tireless dedication, sleepless nights, and a heavy emotional burden.

There are many who succumb in the midst of battle, leaving us the example of their sacrifice for the fatherland. With this example, and as (Verlani) said, frightened at being chosen, today I pledge to dedicate my services to the nation.

At this time, when there is need for a strong inner will, I resort to the memories of Minas Gerais, the family inspiration of the faith revealed by the peace of the churches of Sao Joao del Rei [applause], which has renewed my life so many times. I will resort to this memory of inspiration and faith if the temptation of discouragement assails me. When I was carrying out a great political inspiration in Minas Gerais, I had the honor to govern my state, the great and generous land of Minas Gerais. I was trying to put its renewed political force [applause] at the service of the cause of the federal system, which is now distorted, undermined, and humilated.

I would not have left halfway through the mandate entrusted to me by the people of Minas Gerais to become the president of the nation just for the sake of power, which is not always glory and happiness. [applause] I came to promote changes: political, economic, social [applause, cheers], cultural, courageous and irreversible changes. The country has never depended so much on political activity. Therefore, I address all those who exercise this political right, those who will serve my administration through their support and those who will watch it from the opposition, and tell them that it is not my aspiration to achieve unanimity or to promote a sham conciliation through the allure of irrelevant applause, since unity is built on principles and no one, neither through injustice nor slander will be able (?to undermine) those of us who have united under this victorious alliance of democratic forces.

I am to achieve a consensus to defend the sovereignty of the people, to restore democracy, to struggle against inflation, so that we may achieve jobs for all and so that we may achieve the development of our fatherland.

We will promote understanding between the people and the government, between the nation and the state.

I will reject anybody's attempt to create alliances between elites or any adjustment leading to the maintenance of privileged classes [applause], of injustice, and of the obtention of wealth through using starvation.

I call upon Brazilian leaders and all men of goodwill to work for a reconciliation above doctrinal and political commitments. There is room for everybody in the task of serving the fatherland.

I want to convey a special message to workers, to whom we owe so much and who have the future of our country in their hands. [applause] I have had the workers' support since the beginning of my political career, which began when I was elected councilman by the railway workers' vote.

I have always enjoyed the workers' political confidence. A nation's growth is proportional to the participation of workers in the distribution of income and in the management of government business. I hereby pay tribute to the Brazilian workers, who make up the majority of our people, and I reiterate my pledge to dedicate all my efforts to have their rights broadened and respected. [speech interrupted: announcer says turmoil caused by man who is attempting to kiss celebrities, and that Neves "appears upset"]

The reconstruction of democracy in our country means that workers' political life must be restored with full freedom. Without the workers' support, no government can fulfill its constitutional tasks. [applause]

Brazilians, this memorable campaign has strengthened the unlimited faith that I have in our people. Never before have we seen so many people in the streets demonstrating in support of a candidate and demanding that the people's rights be restored. The same enthusiastic attitude has prevailed throughout the country. From Rio Branco to Natal, from Belem to Porto Alegre, crowds have gathered peacefully, singing and saying that it is necessary to bring about a change, because the nation, tired of arbitrariness, could no longer tolerate a delay in the restoration of democracy. [applause]

We will not disband. Let us continue together as we were in public squares, with the same emotion, dignity, and determination.

Tiradentes, the hero who filled his heart with hope, said almost 200 years ago that if we want, we can make a great nation out of our country. Let us do it. [applause]

BRIEFS

SHIP LEAVES FOR ANTARCTICA -- The oceanographic vessel Professor Wladimir Besnard left the port of Santos on 5 January on a 2-month cruise to Antarctica. [Summary] [Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 6 Jan 85 p 9 PY]

PROPOSAL FOR AIR AGREEMENT WITH U.S. DRAFTED

PY121415 Lima OAY-4Z Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 12 Jan 85

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Luis Percovich today announced that Peru has been elected a member of the UN Human Rights Commission and that this event refutes certain accusations about alleged human rights violations in the country.

Turning to the subject of Peru's proposal for an air agreement wirh the United States, he said that it will be disclosed after the draft is approved.

[Begin recording] As for the air agreement with the United States, we have held coordination meetings with the various sectors concerned and we have already drawn up a draft that will be submitted to the U.S. Government for consideration after it is approved. We only need to conclude the talks with the Peruvian State Airlines to learn its position on the draft. [end recording]

AP CANDIDATE DISCUSSES ECUADORAN BORDER ISSUE

PY141334 Lima Television Service in Spanish 0330 GMT 13 Jan 85

[Text] The presidential candidate for the Popular Action [AP] party, Javier Alva Orlandini, has asserted that the validity of the Rio de Janeiro protocol is undeniable and has cordially called on the Ecuadoran Government to cooperate in placing border markers along the 78 km of unmarked Ecuadoran-Peruvian borderline.

After noting that a lasting and fraternal peace will thus be consolidated between the two countries, Alva Orlandini said that the efforts of all Peruvians, regardless of their political leanings, are necessary for the development of the border region.

The AP candidate was speaking during an enthusiastic meeting that he addressed in Las Verdes, a few meters from a border marker with Ecuador and by a pole flying the Peruvian flag.

DYNAMITE CHARGES EXPLODE NEAR ELECTIONS OFFICE

PY151107 Lima Cadena Panamericana Television in Spanish 0100 GMT 15 Jan 85

[Text] In Huancayo, two dynamite charges were set off by terrorists this afternoon in front of the Departmental Elections Board of Junin Department shortly after the United Left registered its list of candidates.

The explosion caused material damage, especially to the doors and windows of the Tourist Hotel, in whose front yard the explosions took place.

MEDINA ON TRANSITION, 'POLITICAL PRISONERS'

PY112322 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0446 GMT 11 Jan 85

[Text] Montevideo, 10 Jan (EFE) -- Army Commander General Hugo Medina today stated that the eagerness to achieve solutions and to return to democracy swiftly have given rise to strikes and conflicts in Uruguay. Medina made these comments at a time when Uruguay is enduring a wave of strikes and stoppages called by the recently created trade unions in demand of better salaries. The high-ranking military leader talked to the press after attending a meeting where two colonels qualified to be promoted to general, Nelson Rodriguez and Juan Zerpa, were introduced to de facto President Gregorio Alvarez.

Just a month before the democratic government is die to take over, Medina said, the political situation is normal. In every transition, the characteristics of the change, especially in this case when a de facto regime is handing over power to a democratic one, are accentuated. Some impatience has been observed among those who will return to democratic life, and this has given rise to situations that I cannot justify because I believe that one must be patient. The next government will be in the position to produce solutions, Medina said.

Medina made it clear that the newly-elected government cannot solve all the problems and requirements that may be realistic, but I do not know to what extent they are viable for the country. The military leader also reported that 350 people are still imprisoned for subversion, adding that there will be more releases over the next few days. He said that on 1 February the representatives of the military courts will visit the prisons to review cases and decide on early releases. Lieutenant General Medina felt that those who committed crimes of bloodshed must serve their sentences, which is in accord with the stance adopted by leading political sectors in the country which oppose a general and unrestricted amnesty. Medina also stated that so far this year he has had no contacts with representatives of the newly-elected government. Nonetheless, he feels that talks will be held to coordinate the inauguration and to talk about the political prisoners and the situation at the Legislative Palace, where Congress will be installed on 15 February.

INFLATION REACHES 66.13 PERCENT IN 1984

PY111610 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1239 GMT 11 Jan 85

[Text] The inflation rate reached 66.13 percent in 1984, according to a report from the Montevideo weekly BUSQUEDA. Although the government has not revealed the official 1984 figures, unofficial reports say that the Consumer Price Index in Uruguay grew 2.57 percent in December 1984. According to these numbers, the inflation during 1984 was less than the Uruguayan peso exchange rate to the dollar, which reached 71.7 percent. The weekly also made percentage forecasts of the public sector deficit for 1985. It predicts that the state enterprises will reach a 5.3 percent deficit in the 1985 GDP, and the Central Bank will reach a 4 percent deficit, which altogether will total a 9.3 percent deficit for the public sector.

BRIEFS

EXPORTS DECLINE -- Montevideo, 8 Jan (EFE) -- Uruguayan exports during 1984 declined $100 million due to the drop in meat sales. The export of nontraditional goods increased, but not enough to cover the decline in meat, wool, and hide exports. [Summary] [Madrid EFE in Spanish 1422 GMT 8 Jan 85 PY]

ISRAELI ENERGY MINISTER CONCLUDES 3-DAY VISIT

FL102336 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1815 GMT 10 Jan 85

[Excerpt] Mexico City, 10 Jan (NOTIMEX) -- Israeli Energy Minister Moshe Shahal today concluded his 3-day visit here and signed an agreement with Mexico to maintain stability in the international pertroleum market. Interviewed at the Mexico City airport shortly before departing for his country, the Israeli official said his government would continue to purchase 50,000 barrels of oil a day even though current world market conditions are not favorable for sales increases. Nevertheless, he said the Mexican Government left open the possibility of increasing hydrocarbon sales from 50,000 to 70,000 barrels per day once the international petroleum situation has normalized. During his stay in Mexico City, Moshe Shahal met with the secretaries of finance, commerce, energy and mines, and agriculture, as well as with PEMEX Director Mario Ramon Beteta.

DE LA MADRID MEETS WITH JAPANESE FINANCE MINISTER

FL142350 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2040 GMT 14 Jan 85

[Text] Mexico City, 14 Jan (NOTIMEX) -- Japanese Finance Minister Noboru Takeshita met today with President Miguel de La Madrid to confirm his government's cooperation with Mexico to solve Mexico's foreign debt problem. During the meeting, Takeshita also expressed his government's recognition of the efforts Mexico is making to overcome the current economic crisis. He said that in a meeting of industrialized countries next May in West Germany, Japan would fight for a radical reduction in the fiscal deficits of the powerful nations in order to contribute to the reduction of interest rates on the world market. Referring to bilateral relations between Mexico and Japan, he indicated that his country had substantially increased its economic, commercial, and financial relations with Mexico in recent years. He pointed out that this country is considered among the most important in the world. President de la Madrid and the Japanese minister agreed on the importance of bilateral relations for the continuation of overall economic policies and for the common benefit of all mankind. They also said the Pacific Ocean no longer separates the two countries but insteads unites them, as it has been converted into a channel of understanding between the two peoples. Finance Secretary Jesus Silva Herzog was also present at the meeting. He praised Mr Takeshita by saying: In the most difficult moments in restructuring our foreign debt, we received great cooperation from the Japanese people.

PEMEX DIRECTOR PLEDGES TO REDUCE COMPANY'S DEBT

FL122001 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0055 GMT 12 Jan 85

[Text] Mexico City, 11 Jan (NOTIMEX) -- PEMEX Director Mario Ramon Beteta said today that the compnay would reduce its foreign debt this year from $20 million to $16.5 million. Speaking to representatives of 100 international financial corporations from 15 countries and to Mexican Finance Ministry officials, he said this measure would permit PEMEX to maintain its relations with the international community. Beteta noted that PEMEX' debt amounted to one-quarter of Mexico's entire debt, or $20 million, which was owed at the beginning of the present administration, and that it would be reduced to $16.5 million. He also said PEMEX this year would pay 2.7 trillion pesos [as received] (more than $12.74 billion) in direct taxes [words indistinct].
He noted that the company's reserves had grown by 1.6 trillion [as received] pesos (more than $7.584 billion). He added that PEMEX had satisfied domestic demand for hydrocarbons and that it was the world's fourth largest petroleum producer according to financial and operation figures.

DE LA MADRID SEEKS COOPERATION FROM GOVERNORS

PA150232 Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 9 Jan 85 p 3

[By Miguel Angel Ramirez]

[Excerpt] President Miguel de la Madrid has asked the state governors to intensify their political functions, dialogue, and contact with the people, and to pay more attention to the people's demands and solve problems with a revolutionary spirit. The president met with the governors to discuss the country's social and political situation. He said that only through "enthusiasm and patriotism" can we accomplish the political tasks needed to improve the country and overcome present and future problems, while preserving national social stability, sovereignty, and independence. The chief executive analyzed the economic situation. He stressed that 1985 "presents us with the challenge to further decrease the inflation rate, achieve economic recovery, and even expand acitivites, without reaching extremes that might result in negative balances." The president expressed his main concerns and recommendations to the governors of the country's 31 states and the head of the federal district in the following 12 points:

1. To pay special attention to elections so that they are conducted in a climate of tranquillity and strict adherence to legal measures.

2. To expand and support programs to strengthen municipal authority.

3. To maintain and expand dialogue with all social sectors, paying special attention to the demands presented by the poorer classes.

4. To harmonize the legitimate interests of all Mexican social sectors.

5. To fight inflation strongly and to protect the consumer and prevent speculation by working closely with federal authorities in establishing price control and supply policies.

6. To support policies regarding consolidation and recovery of national economic activity in all production sectors according to their individual economic condition and resources.

8. To strengthen tax collection procedures and to fight tax evasion and contraband.

9. To cooperate with the national policy of reducing government expenses through national and state high priority programs eliminating unnecessary expenses.

10. To support programs aimed at dispensing justice and making the police forces more professional and honest, without forsaking agrarian and labor court proceedings and programs aimed at protecting the consumer.

11. To support programs aimed at decentralizing the national government, especially with regard to education, health, and agro-industrial activity.

12. To complement judicial reforms aimed at stengthening moral reactivation, which is essential in order to obey the legal order and guarantee the honesty that should characterize government employees.

President de la Madrid met with the governors in the Carranza Hall at the Los Pinos official residence. He asked for the active cooperation of state and municipal governments.

FOUR COUNTRIES SIGN TARIFFS, CUSTOMS ACCORD

PA151720 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 0050 GMT 15 Jan 85

[Text] Following protracted negotiations, the Central American Tariffs and Customs Agreement was signed by Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica today in Guatemala City, the Secretariat of Central American Economic Integration [SIECA] reported.

The lengthy negotiations began in 1975, continued in 1981, and grew more intense in 1984. They culminated today with the signing of this important document, which will benefit the countries of the region.

Honduras has not yet signed the agreement but was represented as an observer by its minister in charge of Central American economic integration at the meetings held in December 1984 at SIECA headquarters in Guatemala City.

COSTA RICA

FOREIGN MINISTRY REAFFIRMS RIGHT TO GRANT ASYLUM

PA151605 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 15 Jan 85

[Text] In rejecting the Sandinist government's interpretation of the right of asylum contained in a memorandum circulated to all diplomatic missions accredited in Managua stating that Nicaragua would not allow asylum to be granted to individuals trying to evade military service, Costa Rica has reiterated that the right of asylum is sacred.

According to the Caracas Convention, the country granting protection is empowered to determine whether an individual is granted asylum, not the government of the country from which that person is fleeing. Therefore, the Costa Rican Government categorically rejects the Nicaraguan stance.

In a lengthy note delivered yesterday to the Nicaraguan Embassy here, the Costa Rican Foreign Ministry made a legal analysis of the meaning of the right to asylum in international law. This right is described by Costa Rica as sacred and an essential concept of inter-American law.

Costa Rica cannot renounce its right to grant asylum. It is not our country's goal to turn its diplomatic mission in Managua into a refuge for people who merely want to evade military service as required by Nicaraguan law. However, the Foreign Ministry said that Costa Rica cannot renounce its right to grant asylum in keeping with Article 2 of the Convention on Political Asylum held in Montevideo. To renounce that right would be tantamount to ignoring the principles contained in the OAS Charter, which is based on international law.

Finally, the note stated: Therefore, Costa Rica cannot accept the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry's directives contained in a memorandum dated 8 January.

EL SALVADOR

REY PRENDES REVEALS ASSASSINATION PLOT

PA151335 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0636 GMT 15 Jan 85

[By Robert Block]

[Text] San Salvador, 14 Jan (REUTER) -- Salvadoran Presidency Minister Julio Adolfo Rey Prendes said today that the CIA had uncovered a rightist plot to assassinate him. Rey Prendes told REUTER news agency that Roberto D'Aubuisson, former chief of security and head of the extreme rightist party Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA) had masterminded the plot.

Rey Prendes is an official in President Jose Napoleon Duarte's government. Duarte is the moderate Christian Democrat who won last year's presidential election.

The presidency minister reported that the CIA had informed him about the plot last month, adding that the plot was prepared in Guatemala. "On several occasions, I have had to change my security arrangements, because the CIA informed me that a member of my staff would report all of my movements to the plotters," Rey Prendes stated.

In recent weeks, politically motivated assassinations, perpetrated by groups from the two political extremes have increased. Rey Prendes' statement coincides with the murder of an ARENA official, the second in 3 days. Police reported that gunmen had slain Rafael Napoleon Portillo, ARENA's treasurer in the town of Santa Ana, which is located 60 km from San Salvador. On Friday, ARENA's treasurer in the town of (Santa Ana Tecla) was shot to death. Leftist guerrillas claimed responsibility for the crime.

The increase in politically motivated slayings comes in the midst of an internal dispute between the rightist Legislative Assembly and Duarte's government. The infighting between the two sides centers around the Legislative Assembly elections scheduled for March, the 1985 budget, and the peace talks between government and FMLN representatives. Today, Rey Prendes stated that the government was continuing holding talks with the political right to discuss each of these points.

Government officials reported last week that the Salvadoran Catholic Church's highest prelates, Archbishop Arturo Rivera y Damas and Auxiliary Bishop Gregorio Rosas Chavez, were placed under police protection. The religious figures had received death threats from the right for their role in organizing the talks to end the 5-year-old civil war.

ARCE BATTALION REPORTS ON COFFEE MILL ATTACK

PA152208 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1200 GMT 15 Jan 85

[Report read by unidentified Arce Battalion military spokesman -- live or recorded]

[Text] Today, during the early morning hours, terrorists from the People's Revolutionary Army [ERP] coming from a canton in Lolotique jurisdiction attacked the security post guarded by members of the Arce Battalion and National Guard at the San Luis coffee mill, Moncagua jurisdiction. The Salvadoran Armed Forces, seeking to protect the Salvadoran peoples' work places, assigned units of the [name indistinct] to guard the San Luis coffee mill. That duty was successfully carried out during the coffee harvest, and the coffee mill continues its production activities to benefit the hundreds of people working there. The people's enemies have decided to paralyze the coffee and cotton mills' activities with the intention of destroying the national economy and starving the Salvadoran people.

The ERP killers were unable to destroy the coffee mill's installations so they decided to attack a guard post manned by members of our beloved Arce Battalion and the National Guard during the night. The attackers opened fire with RPG-2 rocket launchers, RPG-7 rocket launchers, Chinese-made grenades, and M-79 grenade launchers, causing the deaths of five heroic soldiers defending our homeland's flag and the Salvadoran people's property and work place.

The squadron of killers known as the ERP was almost completely annihilated by the Salvadoran Armed Forces, so they decided to save their last assassins by not facing our units. Instead, they only attack economic targets and carry out terrorist attacks, with the intention of demoralizing the Armed Forces and killing soldiers located in the country's economic rearguard. The people living in the eastern zone must continue to trust their Armed Forces and the Arce Battalion, which has sent some of its men to track down and annihilate the attackers, thus achieving the peace our Salvadoran people long for.

GUATEMALA

CAN BREAKS POLITICAL COALITION WITH MLN

PA160142 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 15 Jan 85

[Excerpt] The right-wing political coalition formed by the National Liberation Movement, MLN, and the Nationalist Authentic Central, CAN, broke down tonight. The break in the right-wing coalition was decided on by CAN leaders after much discussion. CAN issued a news bulletin on the split tonight, indicating that it had made this decision because CAN believes that positions had not been equally distributed within the coalition. The right-wing coalition had been formed after a lengthy process of harmonizing viewpoints and functioned for the first time in the elections for the National Constitutent Assembly on 1 July.

GUERRILLAS, MILITARY PATROL CLASH IN EL QUICHE

PA151610 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 13 Jan 85 p 3

[Text] Guatemala City, 12 Jan -- Four guerrillas have been killed in a clash between a military patrol and a guerrilla group in the municipality of Nebaj, El Quiche. The announcement was made in a bulletin issued by the Army public relations office today. No casualty figures were given for either side. However, it was reported that the insurgents may have suffered casualties, but that the bodies were probably taken away by the guerrillas who managed to flee.

The bulletin notes that the clash took place Friday afternoon at Cajixaj in Nebaj. It adds that the troops seized weapons, backpacks, explosives, fragmentation grenades, and important documents carried by the guerrillas. No information was given on the nature and origin of the seized documents. The bulletin ends by stating that the Army remains firmly determined to restore calm to all Guatemalans, guaranteeing a climate of peace and well-being conducive to national harmony. This clash is the first to have taken place in El Quiche Department thus far in 1985.

BRIEFS

AMBASSADOR TO U.S. REMOVED -- Deputy Foreign Minister Mario Marroquin Najera has said that the removal of Federico Fahsen, Guatemalan ambassador to the United States, is not due to any irregularities in the ambassador's actions but simply becuase it has been deemed necessary in accordance with the new government policy to be implemented this year. [Summary] [Guatemala City Radio Nuevo Mundo in Spanish 1200 GMT 11 Jan 85 PA]

HONDURAS

STATION DECRIES INDEMNITY PAYMENT TO U.S. CITIZEN

PA112117 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1145 GMT 11 Jan 85

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] After taking advantage of the hospitality and naivete of Honduras, which had the courtesy to open its doors to him, Puerto Rican Temistocles Ramirez has humiliated our country by getting the U.S. Government to force us to pay him a hefty indemnity for lands which this gentlemen, if he can be called a gentlemen, obtained for a song to the detriment of black Hondurans in Puerto Castilla.

Gustavo Alfaro, executive director of the National Agrarian Institute, broke the sad news and noted that Honduras has to pay this Puerto Rican an indemnity or face being punished by Washington through a cut in economic assistance.

This matter of the United States forcing us to pay Ramirez millions of lempiras, or dollars, apparently, we repeat, apparently, involves a violation of elementary diplomatic rules. However, this is not the case. It is quite the contrary. It is because the laws of that great nation do protect the interests of U.S. citizens abroad. It is the opposite in Honduras, where neither the government nor the military nor any other authority watches over our citizens' interests.

The Ramirez case has infuriated all Hondurans. The open mockery of us by this modern-day pirate is supported by U.S. laws protecting the interests of any U.S. citizen in another country. Nevertheless, we Hondurans continue to be nice to any foreigner who comes to our shores for the alleged purpose of setting up businesses, investing, and generating jobs. Ramirez belongs to this group of people.

This is the cost of backwardness and dependence. It means having to put up with utter humiliations like this when we must swallow the bitter pill of being forced to pay an indemnity to a man who came to Honduras, became rich, [word indistinct] exploited our black brothers, obtained lands for a song, evaded paying taxes to the Honduran treasury, and flouted our laws. Now, in the end, we must pay a large indemnity to him because otherwise, as Alfaro has noted, we may be left without U.S. economic assistance.

NICARAGUA

FOREIGN MINISTRY WARNS COSTA RICA OF CONTRA ATTACKS

PA151730 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 12 Jan 85 p 12

[Communique issued by the Foreign Ministry in Managua on 11 January]

[Text] In view of the worrisome turn in relations between Nicaragua and Costa Rica, in the course of which situations are intentionally exaggerated and false incidents are reported, the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry reports the following:

As noted in the communique issued by this Foreign Ministry on 9 January, elements alien to Costa Rica and Nicaragua are promoting and magnifying a fabricated crisis to create conditions that would favor a climate of war in the region and thus justify a foreign military intervention in Nicaragua. This campaign is reaching such high levels that there has even been talk of defeating the peace efforts of the Contadora Group.

Taking advantage of this situation, mercenary groups from the so-called Nicaraguan Democratic Force and the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance are planning attacks and provocations against Costa Rica which they will attribute to Nicaragua and which Costa Rica could use as a pretext to break off diplomatic relations with Nicaragua.

The Nicaraguan Government has learned that in the next few days, those mercenary groups will attack border villages and posts at Penas Blancas, Sapoa, Cardenas, and La Virgen. It is also known that they have an "Aviocar" aircraft painted with the symbols of the Sandinist Air Force which they plan to use to bomb the Costa Rican border post at Penas Blancas and other Rural Guard border posts in that country. The "Aviocar" and a DC-3 aircraft arrived from Honduras and El Salvador and are currently at the "Miramar" sugar refinery, near the Costa Rican city of Puntarenas.

We also know that during the visit that the mercenary Eden Pastora made to the United States in December, the CIA gave him an aircraft and a helicopter to bomb Nicaraguan targets in January. These air operations are coordinated by mercenary Nicaraguan pilots Marcos Aguado and Yamil Frech.

In view of this serious and worrisome situation, the Nicaraguan Government has requested the good offices of the Contadora Group to work for the resumption of dialogue and moderation in Nicaraguan-Costa Rican relations.

It also alerts Costa Rican authorities and the world public to the mercenary groups' criminal plans so that they may be prevented.

Finally, the Nicaraguan Government wishes to express its full willingness to cooperate with the Costa Rican Government to clarify the aforementioned situation so as to resolve the current climate of tension that has been fabricated and promote peace and understanding between the two countries.

EPS OFFICIAL DISCUSSES 'NIMITZ,' 'BIG PINE III'

PA151800 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 15 Jan 85

[Text] The aircraft carrier Nimitz, the largest U.S. aircraft carrier, is off Nicaragua's Atlantic coast and poses a threat to the country.

Subcommander Carlos Rojas, chief of the political division of the 3d Military Region of the Sandinist People's Army [EPS], said that 138 counterrevolutionaries have died in various clashes so far in 1985.

Referring to the Nimitz, he said that it has more than 90 planes, including 40 that carry nuclear weapons. The arrival of the Nimitz occurred several days before the beginning of a new phase of the "Big Pine III" maneuvers between Honduran and U.S. forces in Honduran territory. Armored and mechanized infantry units of the U.S. Army will be used for the first time in these maneuvers.

Rojas also noted that after each military maneuver in Honduras, the Somozist mercenaries are equipped with war materiel. For this reason, he foresees an increase in their actions after the maneuvers conclude. The Nicaraguan military officer added that the EPS foiled the "New Harvest" operation which included, among other actions, the counterrevolutionaries' occupation of Jinotega and Esteli. Since they were unable to achieve their goals, the mercenaries have recently been involved in sabotage actions against our country's economy. The number of these actions increased to 14 so far this month.

According to reports, 15 private farms have been attacked since the beginning of the coffee harvest in November 1984. In addition, 65 civilians, who were involved in productive tasks, were killed early in January and 62 people were kidnapped by counterrevolutionaries.

HENRY RUIZ HEADS DELEGATION TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA

PA152117 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 15 Jan 85

[Communique No 1 issued by the Presidency of the Republic of Nicaragua in Managua on 14 January]

[Text] Sergio Ramirez Mercado, vice president of the Republic, today bade farewell to Henry Ruiz Hernandez, foreign cooperation minister and commander of the revolution, at the Augusto Cesar Sandino International Airport. Ruiz Hernandez left for Czechoslovakia at the head of a top-level delegation that will take part in the Czechoslovak-Nicaraguan Joint Commission meeting from 16-18 January.

The Nicaraguan delegation is made up of: Bernardo Chamorro, deputy foreign trade minister; Daniel Fajardo, deputy industry minister; James Zablah, director of the textile section of the Industry Ministry; (Edgar Largaespada), director of the leather and shoe section of the Industry Ministry; Luis Lacayo, director of the technical and material supplies section of the Agricultural Development and Agrarian Reform Ministry; (Graciela Silva), general director of the section for cooperation with socialist countries of the Planning Ministry; (Guillermo Urdenana), official in charge of the Nicaraguan Central Bank's department of credit lines from socialist countries; 1st Lieutenant Julio Cardenal, chief of military construction in the Sandinist People's Army; (Juan Jovane), adviser to the planning minister; and (Raul Romero), [word indistinct] manager of the Transportation Ministry.

COMMUNIQUE ON BOGOTA MEETING WITH MISURASATA

PA152329 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 2310 GMT 15 Jan 85

[Communique No 2 issued by the Presidency of the Republic of Nicaragua in Managua on 15 January]

[Text] Regarding the meeting scheduled for 19-20 January in Bogota, Colombia, with representatives of the Miskito, Sumu, and Rama Sandinist Unity [Misurasata] organization, the Government of the Republic of Nicaragua states the following:

1. The government maintains its firm decision to continue participating in talks with Misurasata and attend the Bogota meeting scheduled for 19-20 January 1985.

2. So far, Misurasata has not clearly confirmed its decision to attend the meeting in Bogota.

3. The establishment of conditions prior to the meeting is alien to the nature of the meeting and the spirit with which the talks began. The government does not demand or accept any type of conditions.

4. If Misurasata does not clearly confirm its decision to attend the meeting in Bogota by Tuesday, 15 January 1985, the government will assume that Misurasata is refusing to attend the meeting and fails to recognize the agreements which provided the basis for the meetings.

For peace, united against the aggression.

[Signed] Directorate of Information and Press of the Presidency

GOVERNMENT, CHURCH REPRESENTATIVES HOLD TALKS

PA151955 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 15 Jan 85

[Broadcast in progress]

[Text] ...Catholic Church met today in Managua to continue the dialogue begun 20 days ago to seek rapprochement between the two sides. Today's meeting was attended by representatives of a joint commission created in December after a meeting between top church authorities and Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega Saavedra. Another meeting was held between government and church representatives in early January which, according to Episcopal Conference President Msgr Pablo Antonio Vega, was intended only to be a friendly meeting to work toward rapprochement. Vega did not mention those who participated in today's session. However, the previous meeting was attended by Rodrigo Reyes and Presidency Minister Rene Nunez. In addition to Vega, the church was represented by Msgr Bosco Vivas, secretary of the Episcopal Conference, and Msgr Andrea de Montezemolo, the apostolic nuncio.

Msgr Vega said that this meeting, like the previous ones, was held behind closed doors and that they discussed a long list of topics concerning the problems that the church and the Nicaraguan Government have had for the past 5 years. This was practically the first working session between the two sides and was held in an atmosphere of friendship and frankness, Vega said, adding that he hopes that this dialogue will serve to overcome the differences.

BISHOPS PROTEST PRIESTS HOLDING GOVERNMENT POSTS

PA151510 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 11 Jan 85 pp 1, 12

[Letter from Msgr Pablo Antonio Vega, president, and Msgr Bosco Vivas, secretary, of the Episcopal Conference to President Daniel Ortega Saavedra; issued in Managua on 9 January]

[Text] Commander:

The news that Catholic priests subject to church discipline will remain in their positions in the new cabinet (BARRICADA, Tuesday, 8 January, page 5) has surprised us. It places the church in the unavoidable and painful position of having to apply due sanctions.

We are compelled to stress that such disciplinary norms of the universal church, which those concerned are aware of and which we have explained to you, have no relation to the performance of these priests in the exercise of their public offices. Nor are they intended to pass judgment on the system of government in which they serve.

Therefore, it has surprised us that having initiated frank and open talks to prevent futile confrontations between the church and the new government, the church norms regulating priestly functions were not taken into consideration at the time the new cabinet was chosen.

We wish to advise your government that such disregard on its part constitutes a new obstacle to the smooth development of the dialogue and breeds mistrust in the common effort that we have begun.

It is worth considering that the possibilities for an adequate understanding increase to the degree that the specific mission of a priest in proper communion with the church ensures that man achieves his overall development is respected.

The implications and repercussions of these developments cast doubt on the suitability of the already confirmed presence of the conference at the inaugural events of the government that you will head.

However, we have considered that, in the country's interests and as a manifestation of our continued goodwill in seeking together paths that will guarantee the peace and justice we all want, it is necessary to seek another way to justify to the people the presence of the Episcopal Conference at the scheduled events.

In view of the fact that the government issued a personal invitation to a bishop to give the blessing at today's official ceremony, we have deemed it appropriate that the president of the conference himself gives the blessing.

With our sincere desire to contribute to a change that will guarantee the welfare and sovereignty of our fellow citizens, we pray to the Lord so that in his infinite bounty he may enlighten the path of your new government.

[Signed] Msgr Pablo Antonio Vega, bishop of Juigalpa, president of the Nicaraguan Episcopal Conference

Msgr Bosco Vivas, auxiliary bishop of Managua, secretary of the Nicaraguan Episcopal Conference

Note: If you consider it to be convenient, we can make the text of the inaugural's blessing available to you in advance.

GOVERNMENT ADOPTS MEASURES TO CONTROL TRADE

PA152244 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 15 Jan 85

[Text] The revolutionary government today initiated the implementation of the first of five measures to control illicit trade, usury, hoarding, and speculation to be adopted during the first months of this year. The control measures adopted by the Internal Trade Ministry, Micoin, include punishing merchants caught hoarding basic products. Among the sanctions are the cancellation of their licenses and confiscation of merchandise. This measure will also be taken against internal smugglers and persons who rent or transfer their trade licenses. The control measures are accompanied by other moves, such as the establishment of production agreements with industrial or agricultural firms in the state and private sectors, and will regulate the functioning of a state-owned firm that will market perishable products.

CSE DIRECTOR ON COUNCIL'S FUTURE TASKS, STRUCTURE

PA160308 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 15 Jan 85

[Text] Julian Corrales Munguia, director of the Supreme Electoral Council, CSE, has reported to this radio station that the council will continue to operate, but it will be the National Assembly that will determine the council's future structure. Some of the council's functions until the National Assembly determines the council's next tasks will be to prepare a financial report, return to voters their registration cards, and write a historic memoir.

[Begin recording] Upon drafting our new constitution, the National Assembly will determine the role to be played by a future electoral organization. It may retain the current form or have a very different structure and operate differently. As we have said, this will be provided for in the new constitution.

The new constitution will determine the functions of the new electoral organization. The CSE, however, will not disappear as such. When we speak of the CSE we mean the central organization and the councils existing in special zones. It is obvious that there are functions in this council which are no longer necessary, such as the ballot-receiving boards that act during the registering of the parties and the election. Then there are the zonal boards. These are in charge of coordinating the actions of the ballot-receiving boards. The zonal boards have also been abolished because they are no longer necessary. [end recording]

Regarding the procedure to be implemented for returning registration cards to citizens, Corrales explained:

[Begin recording] The electoral councils have been planning to return registration cards in accordance with the amendment to the electoral law. The cards will begin to be handed over as of 4 February. We have been working on this by organizing the cards to facilitate return of these cards to citizens. Of course, we will need some money and a municipal organization since we have agreed that the cards will be handed over by municipalities. It is impossible to hand them over according to ballot-receiving boards because this would mean putting the entire electoral system into operation again. In addition, we will set a period for citizens to go to municipal offices to receive their cards. Once this period has passed, however, those cards not claimed will be burned in the presence of the political parties' representatives. We will also burn all surplus electoral material, such as a large number of ballots not used during the election, as well as used ballots. We cannot hold them indefinitely because they take up a lot of space, nor can they be allowed to be left lying around. For this reason, registration cards not claimed will be burned. [end recording]

ASSEMBLY SECRETARY SOLIS DISCUSSES PROCEDURES

PA152312 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 15 Jan 85

[Text] Subcommander Rafael Solis, National Assembly secretary, has reported to us that the organization will begin its sessions next week by discussing its statutes and by-laws.

[Begin recording] [Solis] The National Assembly that was (?formed) on 9 January will probably begin its session next week. We still have not reached a final decision on the date. The first thing that the Assembly will consider will be its own by-laws and statutes. According to the decree issued on inauguration day and for the Assembly's initial debates, the State Council's general statute and by-laws will be in effect. Otherwise, we would have to start from scratch and discussions would be difficult for lack of suitable regulations.

[Reporter] Commander, what will the Assembly's procedure be during its sessions?

[Solis] We plan to work 2 or 3 days for 1 week, and then commissions will devote the following week to their activities, that is, companeros will be given ample time to prepare bills, hold discussions, and coordinate with related state organizations in such a manner so they can make positive contributions at the next sessions. It is very likely that this will be the Assembly's final working plan.

[Reporter] There are political parties that did not participate in the elections which will request to be permitted as observers during the sessions with a right to voice opinions. What will be the Assembly's opinion?

[Solis] Well, we would have to consider that. The National Assembly is the result of the election, the provisions of the electoral law, and [words indistinct]. We would have to decide whether, because of the Assembly's constituent nature and wide-ranging powers, we would allow the parties that did not participate in the election to be observers during the Assembly sessions. Their nonparticipation was due to the fact that they were not legally registered at the time of the election. Their situation is different from that of other parties that did not participate although they were legally registered. No special consideration should be given the parties that did not participate in the elections. I could, however, make a special suggestion for these parties to act as observers. But the National Assembly would have to make the final decision. The parties would have to present written requests. One thing is certain: It would be impossible to allow them to cast votes. This right is reserved for the parties represented at the Assembly. We will try to find a means for their participation as consulting parties.

[Reporter] Commander, it was said a few days ago that, prior to drafing the constitution, consultations would be held throughout the country. Has the National Assembly a specific plan for this task?

[Solis] So far we have not made any specific plans for this. According to the information we have, each party (?will prepare) its own draft constitution. They will very likely do so. We would have to appoint, first of all, an Assembly commission to prepare a preliminary draft to be considered by all parties represented at the National Assembly. The commission could, in turn, appoint several subcommissions to visit the population, convoke meetings, and so on, in order to learn the opinion of all sectors. Then the commission would present the corresponding draft to the Assembly. These are only ideas so far because no final decision has been made on the work of the constitutional commission. It would be beneficial, however, to have this mass consultation. We hope the decision made reflects the will of the majority of our people. [end recording]

PLI'S GODOY TO TAKE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY SEAT

PA152015 Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish 1200 GMT 14 Jan 85

[Text] Dr Virgilio Godoy is only waiting for party orders before he joins the National Constituent Assembly. Godoy apparently returned from Mexico in high spirits and hopes to become vigorously involved in political activities.

Now that the Independent Liberal Party [PLI] president will join the National Assembly, the alternate, Dr Constantino Pereira, has no other option but to give up his parliamentary seat to Godoy. Thus, his tenure in the directorate of the legislative and constituent branch to which he was elected will end.

Immediately following his return from Mexico, Dr Virgilio Godoy called his party's directorate to an emergency meeting. This is what he said when approached by "The Awakening" newscast on his way out of that meeting:

[Begin recording] Well, this morning we held the first national directorate meeting of 1985. It was a very productive meeting in terms of the number of topics and the variety of problems discussed. We reviewed party activities and plans to be carried out this year. The PLI is very optimistic that (?it will be seen) here and abroad as the party of hope for all Nicaraguans. [end recording]

PUCA TO ATTEND TALKS FOR RESUMING NATIONAL DIALOGUE

PA152240 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 12 Jan 85 p 10

[Excerpt] We have agreed to participate in the talks scheduled to take place between resentatives of Nicaragua's 13 political parties aimed at resuming the national dialogue, Alejandro Perez Arevalo, secretary general of the Central American Unionist Party [PUCA], has said,

The political commission has already reviewed the document approved by nine political parties which establishes the basic agreement to resume the national dialogue, he stated. The political commission includes party activist Guillermo Sanchez Arauz, Giovanni D'Ciofalo, Alejandro Baca Munoz, Gustavo Zapata, and myself, Perez Arevalo noted.

We all found acceptable the document submitted to us by representatives of the Social Christian Party, the Communist Party of Nicaragua, the Independent Liberal Party, and the Nicaraguan Socialist Party, he said. We have seen that the nine political parties that held pre-dialogue meetings are interested in finding ways to achieve peace in our country, the PUCA leader said.

Therefore, we hope that the other parties that have not participated in the talks, such as the FSLN, the Revolutionary Workers Party, and the Marxist-Leninist Popular Action Party, accept the basic document. We have endorsed the document because its contents reflect the situation that Nicaraguans are experiencing, Perez Arevalo added.

PRT CRITICIZES POLITICAL PARTIES' DOCUMENT

PA152037 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 15 Jan 85

[Text] The so-called Revolutionary Workers Party [PRT], commonly known in political circles as the "Troskos" tonight criticized a document drafted by seven [as heard] political parties, whose political leanings range from communism to the most recalcitrant conservatism. These seven political parties drafted a basic document a few days ago which stemmed from so-called pre-dialogue talks.

Bonifacio Miranda, leader of the PRT, who is of Trotskiyist leanings, said that this document does not hold U.S. imperialism responsible for the crisis in Nicaragua and that the United States is not even mentioned in the document. In addition, Miranda said, the opinions given about the past elections are not the most objective. However, he said that he will attend another pre-dialogue round of talks to be held tomorrow, which will include other parties that did not attend the first round of talks. I will attend, Miranda remarked, to see what happens and become informed about the maneuvers of these parties that drafted the document a few days ago.

COURT UPHOLDS SENTENCES FOR CHAMORRO KILLERS

PA130222 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 10 Jan 85 p 16

[Text] Yesterday the Court of Appeals of Region 3 upheld the sentences handed down on those who participated in the murder of Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Cardenal, martyr of public freedom. The Court of Appeals decision was made exactly 7 years to the day after Chamorro was killed, that is 10 January 1978.

These are the names of those whose sentences have been upheld: Silvio Jose Pena Rivas, Silvio Rene Vega Zuniga, Pedro Manuel Ramos Quiros, and Domingo Acevedo Chavarria. The four have been sentenced to 30 years in prison for murder and 3 years for aiding and abetting. In addition, Harold Cedeno Aguirre and Juan Ramon Acevedo Medina have been sentenced to 20 years in prison for murder and 1 and 1/2 years for aiding and abetting. Pablo Jose Nunez Benavides, Humberto de la Concepcion Granados Ordonez, and Susana Martinez Giron were sentenced to 15 years in prison for murder and 3 years for aiding and abetting.

The only matter pending is for legal authorities to continue the investigations to learn the identities of those who planned the crime. A few months after the triumph of the revolution, the Sandinist government initiated action against Anastasio Somoza Portocarrero, Santo Zelaya, and others, but the documents have remained in the files of the 1st Criminal District Court in Managua. No reports have been released regarding whether the Attorney General's Office will continue the investigations or whether extraditions will be sought. The government has said these extraditions would be sought in the new Nicaragua, but so far this matter is still pending.

PRIVATE ENTERPRISE IN EXILE GROUP CREATED

PA152236 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1830 GMT 15 Jan 85

[Statement by Alvaro Solorzano, secretary of Nicaraguan Private Enterprise in Exile; date and place not given -- live or recorded]

[Excerpt] We report to our Nicaraguan brothers inside Nicaragua and in exile that a new association called the Nicaraguan Private Enterprise in Exile [Empresa Privada Nicaraguense en el Exilio] has been formed. The Nicaraguan Private Enterprise in Exile is needed by the fatherland precisely because of Soviet-Cuban intervention. For our association, the interests of the fatherland will come first, private enterprise's interests second, and personal interests last.

We must first of all seek free enterprise with social justice in Nicaragua. We must hear and support all groups that seek our country's liberation. We must make Central Americans aware of the danger of the expansion of Sandino-communism. We can essentially achieve this through joint actions with organizations similar to ours.

ARDE ISSUES POLITICAL, IDEOLOGICAL PROPOSALS

PA151248 (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 2230 GMT 13 Jan 85

[Text] The following is a summary of the political and ideological proposals presented by the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, which are contained in the ideological plan that ARDE presented to the world as a means to achieve the real self-determination of the Nicaraguan people.

Political Field

ARDE is struggling to install in Nicaragua a sociopolitical system in which a better kind of society and government can be developed and strengthened to achieve the real liberation of all Nicaraguans and to establish in our country a regime that will respond to our historic realities and also represent the feelings and interests of the people.

This system will support and guarantee equal rights, duties, and opportunities for all citizens, organizations, and political parties within an authentic pluralism. This system will mean the free existence of political parties and their right to the power of the state and will guarantee our sovereignty, authentic nationalism, true nonalignment, and respect for human rights and basic rights.

The government will be one of national unity and it will include all the contending and truly representative organizations that have the support of the people. Its supreme authority will be a government junta formed by members appointed by those organizations. The president, or coordinator, of the junta will be chosen from among the persons appointed by the organizations as members of the junta. This junta will govern by decree for a period of no more than a year and will summon elections for a constituent assembly, appoint a chief of the Armed Forces, and appoint a pluralist cabinet formed by representatives of all the sectors of the country.

The state will be formed by four powers: executive, legislative, judicial, and electoral branches in accordance with the principles of pluralistic and representative democracies. These four branches will be headed in the following way:

A. The executive branch will be headed by the government junta.

B. The legislative branch will be headed by a constituent assembly chosen by the people in a general election in accordance with the Universal Declaration on Human Rights. Electoral organizations at all levels will be appointed for this and all of the parties and groups participating in the elections will be represented in the electoral organization. The main objective of the constituent assembly will be to draft a constitution and an electoral law.

C. The judicial branch will be headed by a supreme court of justice that, as its first duty, will abolish all laws of a totalitarian and repressive nature and will review all confiscations, expropriations, or interventions which have occurred in circumstances of notorious injustice. This revision will be done quickly and clearly under a criteria of social justice respecting, in the case of communities, the rights acquired and compensating the affected private citizens.

Economic Field

Considering the serious lack of basic products, the low levels of production, the lack of incentives for the private and foreign investment, state control, and a foreign economy that is very weak due to the attempt to impose a communist economic system on the Nicaraguan people, the government of national unity will initiate a new reconstruction and change process in the domestic economic system with the help and advice of all truly democratic countries that may wish to help to rebuild Nicaragua by placing the priorities of investment in the areas of agriculture and agro-industry and gradually advancing toward the formation of a mixed economy in which there will be:

A. A private sector completely guaranteed and provided with incentives.

B. Well-defined government and social sectors characterized and justified by their efficiency.

C. A mixed property sector that will encompass all those active in the national economy: state, workers, businessmen, and local and foreign investors.

Social Field

The main goal of the government of national unity will be to reconcile the great Nicaraguan family. To achieve this, there will be a complete revision of laws, decrees, resolutions, trials, and everything done by the FSLN communist government. A general amnesty will be decreed to exclude those who, during the present and the past dictatorships, were responsible for murders and crimes against our people and those who have committed common and economic crimes against the interests of the Nicaraguan people.

We will develop plans and programs that will promote the achievement of a maximum level of employment, will create new job sources, will reorganize the health system, and will enforce a national health and social security plan in accordance with the situation of the Nicaraguan people. Education, housing, public services, and cultural programs will be revised in their context, scope, and goals in accordance with specific programs. They will be redirected and take into consideration our historic customs, the present situation, and future goals, in an attempt to consolidate a just, democratic, and free society and a society with peace.

An agrarian reform law will be promulgated and will grant real land titles to the country's workers and peasants. We will promote the creation of independent cooperatives or other types of free associations.

The Armed Forces will be at the service of the citizens for their protection and to protect national sovereignty and the constitution. The Armed Forces will be nonpartisan and a gradual demilitarization will be implemented until the army is abolished and reduced to police and security corps.

VOICE OF SANDINO CLAIMS 334 ARMY CASUALTIES

PA160116 [Editorial Report] (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua at 2230 GMT on 15 January broadcasts four undated war bulletins issued by the General Command of the ARDE Armed Forces. It also broadcasts an unnumbered war report dated 15 January.

War Bulletin No 493 reports that "at 0700 on 7 January a squad of the Andra Company of the India Commando Unit of the Juan Alberto Zelaya Zelaya Column" under the command of Companero (Fayul) attacked the enemy in Las Milpas, Nueva Guinea, inflicting on the enemy "four dead and six wounded in 5 minutes of battle." It adds that ARDE did not sustain any casualties.

War Bulletin No 494 states that "at 1700 on 12 January the Andra Company of the India Commando Unit of the Juan Alberto Zelaya Zelaya Column under the commond of Companeros Potente and Gran Tirano attacked the interventionist Army in Las Milpas, Nueva Guinea." It reports that "as a result of this attack with rifle and mortar fire by our peasant insurrection, we defeated the new guardsmen, inflicting 80 dead and 70 wounded in 65 minutes of intense fighting." It adds that ARDE did not suffer any casualties.

War Bulletin No 495 reports that on 2, 3, and 4 January several columns of the peasant insurrection under the command of Commanders Apache, (Viruta), and (Ulac) engaged in heavy fighting with the interventionist troops in the areas of Sandy Bay, Sirpi, Karawala, and Tasba Pauni in Zelaya Department. It reports that the enemy suffered 60 dead and that "after the defeat of the enemy, our reconnaissance patrols recovered the following: 74 AK-47 rifles, 5,000 rounds for Soviet-made AK-47 rifles, and 6 RPG-7's." It adds that "this command also denounces the genocidal aircraft that, bombed the civilian population indiscriminately, wounding 10 civilians, including 3 children who are near death." It indicates that "we did not suffer any casualties."

War Bulletin No 496 reports that on 6, 7, and 8 January the Tigre Unit of the Bruno Gabriel Column under the command of Companero Trueno Dos in coordination with Commander Mono fought with the enemy in Barra de Wawa and Karata in northern Zelaya. It reports that "as a result of these battles, the totalitarians suffered 114 casualties, as follows: On 6 January, 25 dead; on 7 January, 32 dead; and on 8 January, 57 dead, in addition to a large number of wounded that the enemy took when it fled in disarray." It indicates that in these actions ARDE recovered 1 60-mm mortar; 30 shells for 60-mm mortars; 1 RPG-7; 40 Ak-47's; 1,600 rounds for Ak-47's; 51 FAL rifles; 1,220 rounds for FAL rifles; 20 military backpacks; 1 Soviet-made watch; and 12 raincoats. It reports that "for our part, we lost Companeros Carpintero, Auca, and Cuchucho, who gave up their lives for a free, sovereign, and independent Nicaragua."

The unnumbered war report summarizes the dates, locations, columns, commanders, weapons seized, and casualties in the actions reported in the previous four war bulletins. It adds that "as a result of all these battles against the interventionist Army, we inflicted on the enemy a total of 334 casualties: 258 dead and 76 wounded." The report is signed by "Eden Pastora Gomez, commanding general of the ARDE Armed Forces" and issued in "Sarapiqui, free territory of Nicaragua, on 15 January 1985."

CASTRO PARTICIPATES IN ECONOMIC EFFICIENCY MEETING

Reports Heard

FL151920 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 15 Jan 85

[Text] The national party meeting on economic efficiency of budgeted activities continued work this morning at the Palace of Conventions presided over by Jose Ramon Machado Ventura and other Politburo members.

The participants at the event heard reports from the public health, education, technical, science, culture and sports, administration, and communal services committees. Later, topics geared to increasing economic efficiency and saving material costs in the nation's budgeted activities were discussed in detail.

The national meeting has demonstrated serious efforts at increasing the economic awareness at all levels of the party's militants.

The closing speech of the event will be made by Comrade Jose Ramon Machado Ventura, Politburo member.

Machado To Close Meeting

FL151320 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 15 Jan 85

[Text] Jose Ramon Machado Ventura, Politburo member, will speak today, Tuesday, at 2000 at the closing ceremony of the national party meeting on the economic efficiency of budgeted activities, which will be held at the Havana Palace of Conventions. The meeting began on Monday with Commander in Chief Fidel Castro and Politburo, Secretariat, and Central Committee members attending. More than 600 members of party grass-roots organizations and labor unions, administrative chiefs of budgeted activities, provincial party leaders, and other guests also attended.

The meeting participants are debating matters related to the factors that make conservation and the rational use of the budget possible, in addition to increasing budgeted income, quality of services, and the role of the party and other grass-roots organizations in these matters.

The meeting is the culmination of a series of meetings that began at the grass-roots level last September.

Castro Addresses Meeting

FL161315 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Text] Fidel participated in the closing ceremony of the national party meeting on economic efficiency.

[Begin Castro recording] At the closure of the National Assembly meeting, although our main effort had been related to the conservation of fuel and raw materials, I mentioned the problem of human resources. I said this problem was not so urgent, that is, that the access to investment had priority, everything [words indistinct] could be put into practice immediately, but the problem of human resources would take years to solve. We had a job to do: We did not want to leave anyone unemployed. It is not a question of hurrying now to reduce excess personnel everywhere because I have the impression we would have to let a lot of people go, and we do not want to do that. We want to do it with the passage of time. We want to optimize, rationalize, and properly use our human resources. [end recording]

Our Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the party's Central Committee and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, participated in the closure of the national party meeting on efficiency in budgeted activities. Fidel also referred to the need to make rational use of human resources because these resources are the most important. Then he said that when socialist production norms and formulas began to be applied to the workers, greater productivity began to be observed in many different types of work. He cited the example of the progress achieved in canecutting.

[Begin recording] In 1970, 350,000 canecutters were required, and this number was required every year to produce 6 million tons of sugar; Camaguey Province alone -- when it was a single province, prior to the politico-administrative division -- needed 70,000 or 80,000 canecutters, if I remember correctly. I know that tens of thousands of workers from all over Cuba had to go to Camguey. But now that province is reaching the point where it can carry out the sugar harvest with its own work force. Nationwide, there has been a reduction from 350,000 to less than 80,000. [end recording]

He then referred to other activities in which economic resources are invested that may appear to be wasted but are not. He cited the example of the need to train teachers and physicians.

[Begin recording] The citizen should have medical attention available to him where he is. If he is in a campground or in a hotel taking a vacation or on a merchant ship bound for Japan, he needs a doctor. Our citizens [words indistinct] because we have to multiply. The child at school needs a doctor, persons at home need doctors. Wherever there are people, doctors are needed. The goal of medicine is to provide medical care to the citizen, maintain and keep watch over his health, wherever he may be. This concept is really a very revolutionary concept. [end recording]

Commander in Chief Fidel Castro also referred to the need to optimize [the use of] human resources, especially in some areas such as the capital where defense needs are greater, there is more work and a greater number of public services, and the shortage of human resources is noted.

[Begin recording] It is necessary to rationalize and optimize the use of our resources, we must save. [Words indistinct] Now we have to dig in, and keep the evil from spreading. [end recording]

Finally, Fidel called upon party members, labor unions, and the mass organizations to be attentive and determine how much each unit consumes, and take part in the economic struggle, the conservation effort.

[Begin recording] I know the studies were critical and self-critical, in this entire process; that is, there is a beginning of awareness. Let us begin to struggle, let us get started, let us get ready to fight another battle. I am absolutely convinced we will win it. [end recording]

ADVISERS MIGHT BE WITHDRAWN FROM NICARAGUA

PA151353 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1315 GMT 15 Jan 85

[Excerpts] Bonn, 15 Jan (DPA) -- A West German deputy who recently arrived from Cuba stated today in Bonn that he received assurances from the Havana government that all military advisers stationed in Nicaragua will be withdrawn from that country if the Contadora Group peace plan becomes effective. The lawmaker had been invited by the Cuban National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP] and met in Havana with ANPP President Flavio Bravo, Cuban Vice President Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, with Jesus Montane, member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and chief of the Central Committee's General Department of Foreign Relations, Deputy Foreign Minister Jorge Bolanos, and Ramon Castro, elder brother of Cuban President Fidel Castro and director of Cuba's biggest livestock breeding project.

Schaefer said that on several occasions the persons he met with assured him that Cuba will withdraw its military advisers from Central America immediately after the Contadora Group (Colombia, Mexico, Panama, and Venezuela) peace plan is accepted and goes into effect.

The liberal spokesman also said it is evident that Cubans aspire to greater autonomy from Moscow, and that they are seeking links with Western Europe and to improve, through indirect channels, their relations with the United States.

GDR POLITBURO MEMBER KLEIBER VISITS CAMAGUEY

FL141432 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1335 GMT 15 Jan 85

[Text] Guenther Kleiber, Politburo member of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany and deputy chairman of the GDR's Council of Ministers, has toured Camaguey and visited Major General Ignacio Agramonte's birthplace.

MICROPROCESSOR SPECIALISTS MEETING OPENS

FL150257 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 15 Jan 85

[Text] The sixth meeting of the provisional working group of CEMA nations for microprocessor technology has begun in Havana. Delegations from the USSR, GDR, Bulgaria, Hungary, CSSR, Romania, Yugoslavia, Vietnam, and Cuba are attending. During the meeting, progress of intergovernmental cooperation will be monitored and measures will be established for extending aid to Cuba.

Also, the first meeting of microprocessor specialists was held with more than 100 delegates attending from more than 10 state organizations. They will study 74 reports which deal with such subjects as the application of automation and information systems to industrial processes, management, and economic controls.

AWARD BESTOWED ON CZECHOSLOVAK JOURNALIST

FL152044 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1900 GMT 15 Jan 85

[Text] The (Felipe Musa) Medal, highest award of the Union of Cuban Journalists [UPEC], has been bestowed upon Jiri Kubka, secretary general of the International Organization of Journalists in Prague, Czechoslovakia. The award was bestowed by Ernesto Vera, UPEC president, who praised Kubka's journalistic achievements and talked about his friendship with the Cuban revolution and our country's journalists.

ARGENTINE MEETS WITH HOUSE OF AMERICAS DIRECTOR

FL151450 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1335 GMT 15 Jan 85

[Text] Argentine Secretary of Culture Carolos Gorostiza has met with director of the House of Americas Mariano Rodriguez, who underscored the cultural identification between the two countries and the relationship between this institution and Argentine intellectuals and artists.

U.S. COMPANIES AFFECT MEXICANS' NUTRITION

PA152321 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 Jan 85

[Report by Juan Roberto Loforte, PRELA correspondent in Mexico City]

[Text] Transnational companies continue to harshly affect the Mexican people's nutrition. While 30 percent of the Mexican people suffer from some level of malnutrition, according to the data of the National Nutrition Institute, the U.S. transnational companies process almost half of the national cereal consumption [consumo] to feed cattle. The world famous transnational companies, Purina and Anderson Clayton, not only control a good part of the production and marketing of cattle feed and the import of biological veterinary medicine, but they also manufacture and distribute processed food with low nutritional levels, known here as junk food. According to the National Food Program, this situation created by the transnational companies reduces the government's possibilities of achieving food self-sufficiency and sovereignty.

RESULTS OF CONTADORA GROUP MEETING NOTED

PA101919 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 10 Jan 85

[Text] The Contadora Group has approved some of the modifications to the Document for Peace and Cooperation in Central America proposed by Honduras, El Salvador, and Costa Rica, and announced that it will propose solutions to conciliate persistent disagreements between area governments. A communique issued in Panama City at the conclusion of the 2-day meeting held by the Contadora Group foreign ministers states that those proposals that contribute to making the document more precise were approved. It adds that the agreements reached at this meeting mark the end of the Contadora Group's process of technical discussions and observations to the act and the initiation of the political negotiation phase. To this effect the group has called a meeting of Central American ministers for 14 and 15 February to agree on verification and control measures and other matters that are pending for the signing of the document for peace and cooperation.

Meanwhile, in New York UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar has acknowledged the Contadora Group for the praiseworthy task it has performed. The group recently marked its second anniversary.

VEIGA CLOSES FOOD INDUSTRY PRODUCTION MEETING

FL151416 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1307 GMT 15 Jan 85

[Text] The (Alberto Koon) collective will be at the height of its beautiful fighting tradition, Roberto Veiga, secretary general of the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions, has said on giving the closing speech at the first assembly held to discuss the food industry's planned production for 1985.

ELECTRICAL WORKERS DAY OBSERVED IN CIENFUEGOS

FL151254 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 15 Jan 85

[Text] The national ceremony marking Electrical Workers Day has been held in Cienfuegos. The persons participating stated their decision to be leaders in the conservation drive, in response to the call issued by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro. Jose Ramirez Cruz, alternate member of the Politburo and president of the National Association of Small Farmers, and Ramon Cardena, Central Committee member and secretary general of the National Chemical, Mining, and Energy Industry Workers Trade Union, attended the ceremony.

ARMY PATROLS CITY; PROTESTS ON PRICE RISES EXPECTED

FL152345 Santo Domingo Radio Comercial Network in Spanish 2130 GMT 15 Jan 85

[Text] Army troops began today patrolling neighborhoods in northern Santo Domingo to prevent any public disturbances. Soldiers carrying automatic weapons and traveling in military vehicles are patrolling the neighborhoods of Capotill; Luperon, 24 de Abril, Espaillat, 27 de Febrero, [words indistinct] and others. Last April, these areas were the scene of violent incidents that resulted in over 50 deaths. Those protests were caused by government-imposed price increases of basic products.

With the signing of a stand-by agreement with the IMF, new price increases on consumer goods are expected. Today, Jose Antonio Najri, secretary of industry and commerce, announced that in the next few days there will be new price increases for fuel and food. It is said that the military and police authorities are ready to confront any protests that may result from the government's new price adjustments.

Noti-Tiempo newscast reporters noticed that the military troops patrolling the capital's northern neighborhoods are not making arrests and are taking a watchful attitude. It is expected that in the next few days, military and police surveillance will be increased in the neighborhoods of northern Santo Domingo.

JORGE CALLS CABINET SESSION TO DISCUSS ECONOMY

FL150316 Santo Domingo Radio Comercial Network in Spanish 2130 GMT 14 Jan 85

[Text] President Jorge Blanco called a cabinet session at the National Palace this afternoon to study aspects of the national economy. Dr Jorge Blanco, his wife, and the secretary of the presidency will chair the session, which will take place on the National Place's third floor. Ministers and some general directors have been invited to attend the meeting, where the austerity measures decreed by the head of state will be discussed. Among the officials who will make explanations will be technical secretary of the presidency, engineer Orlando (Azo) del Castillo and budget director (Fidencio) Vazquez.

GOVERNMENT INCOME EXCEEDED EXPENDITURES IN 1984

FL141600 Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 2 Jan pp 1, 11

[By Francisco Alvarez Castellanos]

[Excerpt] President Salvador Jorge Blanco announced yesterday that for the first time in many years, government income exceeded expenditures in 1984 and asked that 1985 be viewed "realistically." The chief executive, in his first press conference of 1985, said expenditures were 1,284,021,925 pesos and that although the exact income figure "is still being calculated," it exceeded that figure and would be made public in the next 24 to 48 hours. He said this financial data is very eloquent and evidence of "honesty, perserverance, and hard work."

He said the situation has another characteristic, which is that "the year has ended without the government having to use the Central Bank's credit facilities even once."

'ECONOMIC STAGNATION' REPORTED FOR REGION

FL150005 Bridgetown CANA in English 1942 GMT 13 Jan 85

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Jan 13, CANA -- The first nine months of last year were a period of economic stagnation for the Caribbean, the Central Bank of Barbados said. In its latest quarterly economic report, the bank said foreign reserve scarcity continued in Jamaica and Guyana during the period under review although currencies were devalued and fiscal contraction imposed. Major export sectors remained depressed apart from tourism, where output growth has been slow, it added.

The bank said Jamaican authorities raised interest rates and pledged to continue economic measures designed to arrest the decline in foreign reserves. On June 22, 1984, the Jamaican authorities signed a one-year stand-by agreement with the IMF for 150 million dollars (U.S.). The agreement required cuts in government spending and credit restrictions on the private sector, the bank reported. At the end of August the Jamaican authorities raised the prime and bank rates by two percentage points each to 18 per cent and 16 per cent, respectively. In addition the reserve ration was raised and hire-purchase arrangements tightened.

The bank added: Government borrowing rose over the nine months despite stringent measures and the fiscal deficit is now about 17 per cent of GDP (gross domestic product). The exchange rate depreciated 24.4 per cent between December 1983 and September 1984. The bank continued: Over the period bauxite production in Jamaica increased by 32 per cent largely as a result of special purchases by the U.S. Output of bauxite would have been 11 per cent lower in the absence of these special contracts but industry officials are not optimistic about prospects in the immediate future.

In Guyana, there has been some improvement in export performance but the balance of payments position remained fragile. Sugar exports for the first six months of 1984 increased by an encouraging 53 per cent while exports of rice were 18 per cent higher than for the same period in 1983. However, holdings of foreign exchange reserves were a mere 4.1 million dollars (U.S.) at the end of August, compared with foreign liabilities (including long outstanding arrears) in excess of 440 million dollars (U.S.).

In Trinidad and Tobago, foreign reserves decreased by 625 million dollars (U.S.) during the first six months of 1984. Exports were 25 per cent lower although crude oil production did not decline. Imports fell by one-third, reflecting a market decline in refinery throughout in response to falling oil prices and weak demand for refined products. There was a trade surplus of 1.1 billion dollars (T.T.), compared with a deficit of 372 million dollars (T.T.) for the first six months of 1983. The rate of inflation declined from 17.2 per cent at June 1983 to 13.5 per cent at June 1984 but is still high by international standards.

The bank continued: Regional tourist arrivals grew moderately during the period. However, the increase in arrivals was largely offset by a decline in the average length of stay per visitor. Arrvials were 4.7 per cent higher in Jamaica (January to July) and 4.3 per cent higher in the Bahamas (January to June). Arrivals increased by 22.7 per cent in St Kitts and Nevis and 24 per cent in Antigua and Barbuda between January and June. In St Lucia arrivals were 16.2 per cent higher (January to August) but arrivals declined by modest amounts in Grenada and St Vincent.

AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SYSTEM TO BE DEVELOPED

FL151900 Bridgetown CANA in English 1846 GMT 15 Jan 85

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Jan 15, CANA -- The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) says it will assist the Caribbean Community (Caricom) in establishing an agricultural marketing intelligence system. The three-year project is designed to encourage production and marketing efficiency of the agricultural industry in the region, taking into account the diversity of the 13-member community.

The project aims to provide an effective market intelligence service for decisionmakers in Carribean agriculture and agrobusiness, enabling them to improve their functioning through increased production. The commitment of national governments to the establishment and sustained funding of their own national systems is key to the feasibility of establishing a regional markets intelligence system CIDA said. No indication was given of the type of assistance. CIDA added: No national-regional markets intelligence systems is conceivable without this essential commitment by individual nations to fund a national data-gathering infrastructure.

BARBADOS

EX-VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT PEREZ VISITS

Calls for Cooperation

FL141942 Bridgetown CANA in English 2112 GMT 13 Jan 85

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Jan 13, CANA -- Former President of Venezuela Carlos Andres Perez called here today for closer ties between Latin America and the Caribbean, saying it is only through inter-American integration and cooperation that the region's economic problems can be solved. If we would like to rather clumsily maintain the isolation that we have at present, our common problems would not allow us to continue in this manner, he said in a feature address to the annual convention of the ruling Barbados Labour Party (BLP). We are all affected by the problems facing the region, and we in our isolation are creating a situation that is more difficult for the solution of our economic problems.

Perez, Venezuelan head of state from 1974 to 1979, said Latin America and the Caribbean needed the cooperation of the United States and Europe to help improve life in the area, but he stressed this should be on the basis of mutual agreement and respect for the sovereignty and dignity of regional states. Perez, a founder-member of Venezuela's ruling Democratic Action Party, is currently a vice president of Socialist International (SI), the international grouping of democratic socialist parties of which the BLP is a member.

He expressed support for the Reagan administration's 12-year Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI), a multimillion dollar trade and aid plan, saying it is through such economic development programmes that the United States and other industrialised nations should seek the friendship of regional countries. But he urged CBI beneficiary countries, especially those in the Caribbean, to strive for self-reliance through their own institutions like the Caribbean Community (Caricom) rather than see the CBI as the sole solution to their problems.

We should not place all of our hopes in this praiseworthy effort of the United States, but rather we should give due importance to the efforts of Caricom, the Caribbean Development Bank...and unless we look at this deeply, we are not really looking for the solutions of the Caribbean, the former Venezuelan president said. Perez said the basic problem facing Latin American and the Caribbean was poverty, which he described as the breeding ground for political problems and political radicalism. Poverty, dictatorships, and the powerful oligarchies were the root causes of present political conflicts in Central America. he said. Communism was also a contributing factor, he added.

Perez said the United States should change its perspective that communism is at the root of Central American conflicts. He criticised the Reagan administration's policies in the region. He accused the U.S. and the Soviet Union of wanting to impose East-West rivalry in the area and of wishing to prolong the conflicts. He urged Washington to support the Contadora peace process initiated by Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela, and Panama.

That great nation (the U.S.), which is a part of our democratic system, is obliged to give genuine and steadfast cooperation to the Contadora countries and Latin America, he said. We have no links or ideological contracts with the Soviet Union or Cuba. They belong to a different system to the one we have, which is based on the respect and dignity of the human being.

Predicts Pinochet Ouster

FL150150 Bridgetown CANA in English 1510 GMT 14 Jan 85

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Jan 14, CANA -- Former Venezuela President Carlos Andres Perez predicted here last night that Chile's military ruler, Augusto Pinochet, will be ousted this year by the vigorous process of democratisation now sweeping Latin America.

For the first time in our history, we shall have democratic governments from Chile to Mexico because the dictator Pinochet shall disappear from the political scene in 1985, he told a news conference.

Perez, Venezuelan head of state from 1974 to 1979, was in Barbados to address the first day of the annual convention of the ruling Barbados Labour Party (BLP). He said the resurgence of democracy in Latin America would strengthen the capacity of regional states to discuss their problems with the industrialised world. But he expressed concern about the region's debt crisis and the political conflicts in Central America which he said were threats to Latin American democracy. Unless solutions are found, he cautioned, the way could well be paved for the reemergence of military dictatorships. Otherwise, said Perez: I am very optimistic about the future of Latin America...

Speaking of strife-torn Central America, Perez said he felt let down by last November's elections in Marxist-ruled Nicaragua and this caused him to turn down an official invitation to attend last week's inauguration of President Daniel Ortega.

He aid while the elections were a positive step in the democratisation of Nicaragua, the options were limited and the ruling Sandinists had not given guarantees to allow the participation of all the country's political forces. Perez said there was new expectation now as to whether the Sandinists would allow political pluralism or move the country along rigid Marxist-Leninist lines. I feel committed to the struggle to stimulate the Nicaraguan political process to become democratic and (to ensure) that the original plan of the Sandinist revolution is fully carried out in the country, he said.

The former Venezuelan head of state expressed support for the efforts of the four-nation Contadora Group to find a peaceful settlement to the region's problems. He said regional states should lend active support to the initiative by Panama, Venezuela, Colombia, and Mexico as the Central American problem was one for Latin America to resolve and not outside interests.

GRENADA

VENEZUELAN ENVOY BEGINS TALKS ON AID

FL112330 Bridgetown CANA in English 1735 GMT 11 Jan 85

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Jan 11, CANA -- Venezuelan Ambassador at Large Francois Moanack has begun talks here with Grenada's five-week old government on aid programmes for this Caribbean island state. Moanack, who arrived here three days ago, has so far met with Prime Minister Herbert Blaize and ministers responsible for agriculture, labour, education, and foreign affairs.

The diplomat said two of Caracas' aid programmes to Grenada were already being implemented: a long-mooted three million dollar (U.S.) housing scheme and a fisheries development project for which Venezuela is to lend St George's between 1.5 and two million dollars (U.S.). Under the plan for fisheries, Venezuela will help Grenada assess its needs and will later dispatch a two-man technical team to implement a development programme that includes the provision of cold storage facilities, Moanack said. I expect the fisheries programme will take at least one or two years to be completed; it is rather ambitious, he commented.

The housing programme involves the erection of 100 prefabricated two-bedroom houses Venezuela gave to Grenada before the ousting of the Eric Gairy government in 1979. Moanack said the units were never erected. These houses are still stored in a warehouse and we have now given the new government a loan for the construction of these (urban-type) houses and I am told they will be for low income families.

Moanack said the load being made available will cover not only labour costs, but fittings for the houses which will be supplied by Venezuela. The gift of houses cost quite a lot of money, he said, but it was a pleasure for us to contribute something for Grenada. The Caribbean, for us, is a priority and Grenada, being so near, we have to develop a closer friendship. Both projects, the ambassador said, represented no-strings-attached aid from the Venezuela Government.

JAMAICA

FUEL PRICE HIKE PROMPTS DEMONSTRATIONS; 3 DIE

FL160110 Bridgetown CANA in English 0054 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Jan 15, CANA -- Three men were killed and at least six other persons injured today in widespread demonstrations triggered by a sharp rise in the price of petroleum products, police and hospital officials reported. Irate Jamaicans set alight old tyres and debris, blocking several streets, choking off vehicular traffic, and forcing a virtual shutdown of the capital. But the authorities said tonight the situation was under control.

The deaths occurred at roadblocks set up by the demonstrators, the police said. One of the men was identified as a 23-year-old Jamaican and another as a businessman. The businessman was shot during a dispute with a group of demonstrators, while 23-year-old Horace Carnegie was killed during a distrubance on Clarendon, about 40 miles west of the capital, Kingston, according to the police. The third man was said to have been killed during an exchange of gunfire with the security forces in Kingston, where the public hospital admitted at least six persons suffering from gunshot wounds.

The demonstrations, which snarled public transport and forced scores of workers to return home prematurely, were triggered by last night's announcement of a 21 per cent hike that pushed the price of gasoline to 10.90 dollars (one Jca dollar: 20 cents U.S.) and varying increases for other petroleum products. The increases, according to the official JAMPRESS news agency, were a result of the change of the rate of the Jamaica dollar from 3.40 J dollars to one U.S. when the price of petroleum products was last fixed one year ago to approximately 5.00 J to one U.S. dollar at the present time. Large-scale devaluation has been part of Prime Minister Edward Seaga's tough plan for reconstructing Jamaica's beleaguered International Monetary Fund (IMF) aided economy.

Commenting on today's disturbances, Seaga repeated assertions that the adjustment the economy has to undergo could not be achieved without pain. He said the economy was showing clear evidence of stabilising, though it would take some time for its effect to be felt by individuals.

Michael Manley, ex-prime minister and head of the main opposition group here, said his socialist People's National Party has repeatedly warned the government of the social unrest which was bound to arise from an increase in gas prices, having regard to its economic consequences and spin-off effect on every item in the cost of living. He described the hikes as a squalid act and proof of the collapse of (the Seaga administration's) economic policy.

Prime Minister Seaga appealed for good sense and sound judgement, while Manley told Jamaicans to ensure that any demonstration of their anger is conducted in accordance with the laws and due respect for the lives and property of other citizens.

However, Dr Trevor Munroe said the Marxist Workers Party of Jamaica (WPJ) which he heads backs the demonstrators and is helping them man roadblocks.

Seaga said the demostrations seemed to follow a political agenda, but Manley said, it can come as no surprise to anyone in touch with the political reality that last night's announcement (the price hike) has secured a hostile reaction from all sections of the community. Manley also claimed that attempts were likely to be made to infiltrate peaceful groups of protestors to create confusion so as to enable the government to sanction repressive measures.

Seaga Statement

FL152050 Kingston Domestic Service in English 2033 GMT 15 Jan 85

[Statement to the nation by Prime Minister Edward Seaga -- read by announcer]

[Text] [Monitored in progress] ...In the island today following the announcement yesterday of an increase in the price of gasoline and other fuels. These demonstrations have taken the form of blocking roads with debris and other objects including burning tires. There's been reports of one or two confrontations between demonstrators and the security forces.

I want to emphasize however, that the security forces are in full control of the situation and are watching it very carefully. The demonstrations appear to be following a particular political agenda. The overwhelming majority of the people of Jamaica have remained calm and are behaving responsibily.

The fact is that the increase in fuel prices was an inevitable outcome of the devaluation of the Jamican dollar in relation to the U.S. dollar in which world oil prices are quoted.

I have said from the outset that the adjustment to our economy has (?one to go) in order to regain its health and could not be successfully achieved without some pain. In fact the economy is beginning to show clear evidence of stabilization, although, the benefits to the individual will take some time before they become evident in various aspects of daily life.

The Jamaican people have always shown good sense and sound judgment. I have no doubt that they will continue to do so.

FOREIGN MINISTER REPORTS ON EXPORT ACTIVITY

FL152056 Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 31 Dec 84 pp 1, 3

[Excerpt] In a year which saw growth in a wide range of agricultural exports, 1984 showed nontraditional exports holding "steady" at U.S. $142.7 million during January to September. In addition, exports of alcoholic beverages and tobacco grew in value from U.S. $20.4 million to U.S. $21.1 million.

This performance was disclosed by the Rt Hon Hugh Shearer, minister of foreign affairs and foreign trade in his year-end review of export trade and activities of the Jamaica National Export Corporation. He outlined some of the emotional efforts undertaken by the JNEC and the Trade Commissioner Service.

Agricultural exports recording growth were fresh foods, coffee, cocoa and horticultural products. Fresh foods moved from U.S. $10.1 million to U.S. $11.2 million; coffee moved from U.S. $5.9 million to U.S. $7.1 million; cocoa moved from U.S. $2.9 million to U.S. $3.6 million; and horticultural products from U.S. $0.8 million to U.S. $1.2 million.

Performance in the Caricom trade sector did not show growth. Non-traditional exports to the region for January to September showed a significant decline of 38.3 per cent over 1983, falling from U.S. $62.4 million to U.S. $38.5 million. Mr Shearer reported that the unfavorable prospects for Caricom trade earlier in the year were reflected in the actual performance. He said that from the outset, 1984 had promised to be a particularly difficult year for the regional group. However, Jamica's commitment to the regional movement remained firm and the Nassau accord of July was an important step in the revival of intra-regional trade, he said.

Mr Shearer, referring to the introduction of the Caribbean Basin Initiative and the successful conclusion of negotiations for the renewal of the Lome Convention, said the agreements represented the efforts of the government to secure the best possible terms for the country's products in the overseas markets. He said that having secured those advantageous positions, manufacturers and exporters must achieve and maintain a level of efficiency, quality of goods and reliability of supply to enable them to cope with the competition in the international market.